

U.S.: PLO keeping to its pledge

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. State Department in a report sent to Congress credits Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), with adhering to his commitment renouncing terrorism. Since Arafat took the pledge in December 1988 at the behest of the administration of then-President Ronald Reagan, there have been nearly 30 border and rocket attacks by Palestinian groups against Israel, the report said. At least nine of the attacks involved "constituent groups" of the PLO, the report said, and in three cases civilians appeared to be the target. However, after a thorough review, the department told Congress: "We have no evidence in these cases or any others that the actions were authorized and approved by the PLO Executive Committee or by Arafat personally." Arafat's renunciation of terrorism, and a statement by him acknowledging Israel's existence, cleared the way for official U.S. talks with the PLO. Those talks are being conducted in Tunis by Robert Pelletreau, the U.S. ambassador to Tunisia.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأى

Karameh anniversary marked today

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Wednesday marks the 22nd anniversary of the Karameh battle which came after Israel sent in large number of troops, tanks and air fighters to the area in the Jordan Valley in an attempt to occupy the valley and the heights overlooking it. The Israeli attempt was seen as a threat to Jordan's sovereignty and to the security of the Hashemite Kingdom. In the battle and the heights overlooking it, Israel was defeated in the battle and sustained heavy casualties. On the occasion of the anniversary, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday sent a cable to Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb congratulating him and the Armed Forces personnel on the success they achieved during the battle and wishing them continued success in safeguarding the homeland and defending the Arab land. Abu Taleb had earlier sent a cable to Prince Hassan congratulating him on the occasion and voiced pride in and pledging continued allegiance to the Hashemite leadership. Prince Hassan also received a similar cable from Public Security Department chief Lieutenant-General Fadel Ali Fuhaid.

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Crown Prince voices pride in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday sent a message of affection to the people of Jordan on the occasion of his 43rd birthday. The Regent expressed pride in the achievements of the Kingdom and said Jordan carries heavy burdens and faces enormous challenges. Despite meagre resources and thanks to the efforts of the people, a great deal has been achieved, the Crown Prince said. Prince Hassan said over the past 20 years he had been interacting with the challenges facing the country and had been following up its construction and development. The Regent referred to the settlement of Jewish immigrants in the occupied territories and said that the Jordanian people have to be united in confronting this new challenge.

Colombo to close Israeli interest office

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka ordered Tuesday the closure of the Colombo office which represents Israeli interests in Sri Lanka and functions under the U.S. embassy, an official statement said. It said President Ranasinghe Premadasa told Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne to close the Israeli interests section before April 20. Sri Lanka cut diplomatic ties with Israel 20 years ago but in 1984 allowed a section to be set up under the auspices of the U.S. embassy to represent Israeli interests.

Iraq, Turkey discuss borders

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Tuesday border demarcation talks between Iraq and Turkey being held in Baghdad were progressing satisfactorily. "The new round of talks at experts level started on Monday without any problems," an Iraqi official told Reuters. A Foreign Ministry spokesman in Ankara said early in the day the Baghdad talks were aimed to clarify where the border between the two neighbouring countries lie and to agree repair to frontier markings.

Libya agrees to compensate Egyptians

CAIRO (R) — Libya has agreed to pay Egypt at least \$6 million to help compensate the tens of thousands of Egyptian workers it expelled in 1985, government sources said Tuesday. The agreement was the latest sign of improving relations between Cairo and Tripoli that were strained by more than a decade of differences over Middle East policy.

Sharaa leaves Iran

NICOSIA (R) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa left Tehran after intensive talks with senior Iranian leaders, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported Tuesday. The agency did not say if Sharaa discussed the Western hostages believed held by pro-Iranian militants in Lebanon during his two-day visit.

Pakistan unveils battle tank

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan Monday rolled out its first locally assembled battle tank, the official APP news agency said. Regular production of the T-69-11MP tank, fitted with a 105-millimetre gun, will begin Dec. 31 at the factory in Taxila. The factory, 32 kilometres west of Islamabad, was built with Chinese help and can produce 200 tanks a year. Army Chief of Staff General Mirza Aslam Beg said at a ceremony at the factory that the T-69-11MP was part of a project to build a new tank for the Pakistan army, APP reported.

Yemens discuss merger plans

ADEN (R) — The North and South Yemeni cabinets held their second joint meeting Tuesday to discuss the merger of their countries due to take place by November, official sources said. The two countries have already agreed to merge their central banks, media and other institutions as part of the transition to a united Yemen.

Deputies, meeting in closed session, seek details on 19 other cases

House refers nine cases of corruption to attorney general

CBJ gold sales, construction projects and food tenders among those which may go to court

By Salamah Ne'matt
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Tuesday reviewed a preliminary report on financial and administrative corruption in public institutions, and decided to refer nine cases to the attorney general for investigation and possible prosecution, informed sources said.

In the report, submitted by the House's Financial Committee during a six-hour closed session, the deputies also reviewed 19 other cases, which required further investigation, said a parliamentary source.

The committee's report was accompanied by "documents and

official correspondence on corruption in many local institutions, mainly infrastructure projects, tenders and food supply violations," according to the source. The source said there was enough information to deem nine of the cases fit for consideration and investigation by the attorney general for possible criminal prosecution.

Abdullah Akayleh, rapporteur of the Finance Committee, told Jordan Television that the panel's main concern was "to pursue the corrupt and bring those responsible to the proper authority which will rule on these cases very soon."

According to information available to the Jordan Times and

sources quoted by Reuters and the Associated Press, the cases sent to the attorney general included a sale of Central Bank gold holdings, the Abu Nsir housing project, the Jbeiha amusement park project, the Jafr-Azraq road project, the Swaqa prison project, food tenders, and projects of the Jordan Valley Authority.

According to other reports, the House decided to seek more information on at least 19 other cases which involve the supply of a strategic command and control centre, vehicle purchases, the Ma'in spa project, the Jordan Television, Radio and Cinema

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Peres asked to form Israeli government

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Labour Party leader Shimon Peres, who has pledged to begin Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, was asked Tuesday in a televised ceremony to form the next Israeli government.

President Chaim Herzog, after three days of consulting factions in the Israeli parliament, gave the 66-year-old politician the go-ahead to try to form a government to replace that of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Israel Television broadcast live coverage of Herzog giving a letter of nomination to the 66-year-old Peres, who headed Israel's government in 1984-6.

Israeli law left Herzog with the authority to choose a candidate for prime minister. Peres has six weeks to form a new ruling coalition, but it was not certain he would be able to bring together his leftist allies and conservative religious factions.

Labour won a no-confidence vote 60-55 last Thursday, toppling a Likud-Labour coalition government that was led by hard-line Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who will stay on as caretaker premier.

The crisis arose over Shamir's refusal to accept U.S. proposals

for starting a peace dialogue with Palestinians in Cairo.

Peres was pledged to starting such talks immediately without further debate.

As Herzog gave the appointment letter to Peres, the president was overheard saying the political situation was "very complicated" and urging "non-stop negotiations" to form a new government.

Peres replied: "Yes, non-stop negotiations."

If Peres and his centre-left Labour Party fail, Herzog could give the task to Shamir, who remains in office until a new government is installed.

If both Peres and Shamir are unable to forge a coalition, then Herzog could choose another member of parliament or urge the Knesset to call elections.

Likud and Labour, who have shared power for more than five years in a so-called national unity coalition, each claimed the support of 60 seats in the 120-member parliament.

But neither had a clear-cut claim to be chosen by Herzog. In the final hours before his decision was announced, Herzog talked with representatives of both Labour and Likud.

During his three days of consultations with parliament factions, Herzog warned there was growing public anger over political horse-trading by Labour and Likud which could harm the country's democracy.

Israel Television said Shamir had the edge because he was the incumbent and the religious factions would fit more readily with the conservative Likud.

But some Israeli newspapers reported Peres remained Herzog's likely choice because the party was technically the largest faction with 39 legislators to Likud's 35.

Likud lost the no-confidence vote, 60-55 after the Sephardic Torah Guardians, or Shas, party spiritual leader, Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, ordered his ultra-orthodox faction to abstain from the vote.

He made the recommendation after Shamir refused to accept U.S. proposals for starting a dialogue with Palestinians in Cairo.

But Monday, the "Torah Guardians" swung back to Shamir's Likud after criticism from other leading rabbis and an uprising in the party, which is made up largely of Sephardic Jews from the Middle East who are politically conservative.

Deputies meet in W. Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon's parliament convened at its pre-civil war headquarters in downtown west Beirut Tuesday for the first time in nearly 15 years.

The session, attended by 37 of the 72 surviving parliamentary deputies, elected the unicameral house's 13 committees and voted a 40 per cent wage increase for civil servants.

Speaker Hussein Husseini, a Shi'ite Muslim, scheduled another session at the same venue Thursday to deliberate several bills, including one promoting officers of the 22,000 mostly Muslim troops loyal to President Elias Hrawi.

In another development, police said one person was wounded when a small bomb exploded near the Carlton Hotel in the Ras Beirut district.

The meeting Tuesday was the first by parliament at its old venue in west Beirut's Star Square since mid-1975.

The session Tuesday was attended by lawmakers from the various sects and was seen by the local media as a step towards reuniting the war-torn country.

Defence Law to be annulled; committee works on substitutes

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A special panel of legal experts and consultants at the Prime Ministry is currently engaged in preparing for the annulment of the 1935 Defence Law and the enactment of substitute legislation to cover any legal loopholes which may result from this step.

According to an informed source, the panel has received clear instructions from Prime Minister Mudar Badran to pave the road for the annulment of the law "as soon as possible."

The 55-year-old law gives military governors in Jordan absolute power over civil and executive procedures without any legal liability in the Kingdom's courts.

The prime minister, the source said, has asked for complete studies and plans for "executive procedures needed before the annulment of the law."

The source told the Jordan Times Tuesday that the panel was studying amendments to existing civil laws as well as additional legislation "which will serve to fill the judiciary loopholes which will result from the annulment of the Defence Law."

"For example, the Defence Law used to govern the selling price of petrol, cement and cigarettes. When the Defence Law is annulled the civil law has to cover this," said the source, who asked not to be identified.

The move, according to the source, comes in accordance with the prime minister's pledge to the Lower House of Parliament during the vote-of-confidence session in January to abolish the Defence Law within a period of no more than six months.

Deputies at the Lower House have called for the annulment of the law since it is usually enacted only in a state of war or severe internal threats.

"All developed countries have defence laws but they are only applied in a state of war," Senator Omar Nabalsi told the Jordan Times.

Nabalsi, a lawyer, explained that a Defence Law is usually "required for an extraordinary state of war where civil rights are suspended temporarily."

Lawyer Ibrahim Abu Rahmeh said the Defence Law in Jordan was used by the military governor to "eradicate free political activity."

Recently, Lower House Speaker Suleiman Abu delivered a speech on "Democracy in Jordan" in which he said the Defence Law stipulates that "any security personnel can apprehend anyone without an arrest order from the court if that person is behaving in a manner likely to be against the overall security or if that person is suspected of a crime."

Arar, who was speaking at Jordan University, added that

the Defence Law gave the prime minister "authority to order the arrest or detention of anyone."

Abu Rahmeh explained that the law was put into effect at a time when the Emirate of Transjordan was "in a state of war."

The law has been in effect since that date and has been used to control prices of commodities as well as the press. It was used by military governors in the different governorates to organise certain priorities.

"For example, gas-filling establishments had to be located outside municipal borders because they are hazardous. This was enacted through a Defence Law order; now we need a civil law to do this," the source said.

One of the most important elements in the Defence Law was punishment for those who had dealing with the Israeli enemy. "Jordanians who sold land or had trade with Israelis were punished by a Defence Law order. Now the punishment has to stay in effect but we need a civil law to apply it," the source explained.

The source would not give an exact date when the Defence Law will be annulled.

"The government is in a hurry... it will be soon," he said.

The Defence Law can only be annulled through a royal decree and all amendments to existing or new civil laws have to be proposed to Parliament for debate and approval before they are adopted.

Carter sees key role for PLO

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter said Tuesday the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) had a major role to play in the search for Middle East peace.

"I personally believe that our government's leaders ought to continue their direct talks with (PLO Chairman) Yasser Arafat and other leaders," Carter said at the end of a three-day visit.

"Although we certainly have strong disagreements between our country and the PLO, there's no doubt that the PLO can play either a major constructive or destructive role in peace process," he said.

The former president, who once fired his U.N. ambassador

because of his unauthorised contacts with the PLO, had been expected to meet Arafat in Tunisia after leaving Israel.

However, Arafat was attending Namibian independence celebrations and Carter was to return to the United States after talks with Cypriot leaders Tuesday night.

On Monday, Carter visited an absorption centre for immigrants and criticised settling Soviet Jewish immigrants in occupied Jerusalem, Israeli officials said.

"The settlement of Soviet immigrants in Jerusalem serves only to spark Palestinian protests and should be discouraged," one of the officials quoted Carter as saying during the private meeting.

Carter also asked what per-

centage of the arriving immigrants were directed to apartments in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, but refused to state his position on the issue, said Meir Edelstein, director of the absorption centre eight kilometres west of Jerusalem.

Carter's remarks came one day after he told Jerusalem's Israeli mayor, Teddy Kolek, that Jerusalem should remain a united city. This comes amid statements by President George Bush equating Jewish neighbourhoods in Arab Jerusalem with West Bank settlements.

During his visit in Amman, Carter called Soviet Jewish immigrants settling in the West Bank and Gaza Strip "an impediment to peace."

Abed Rabbo denies DFLP split

By Zakaria Mohammad
Special to the Jordan Times

TUNIS — A senior official of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) has denied reports that the group's leadership was split over the efforts to settle the Palestinian problem.

Yasser Abed Rabbo, assistant secretary of the DFLP, said although there were differences of viewpoints among the group's members and leaders, these do not mean that the faction was on the verge of a split.

Speaking in an interview

with the Jordan Times, Abed Rabbo, a member of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and head of the PLO team that is in contact with the American ambassador to Tunisia, said democracy had always been one of the main features of the group, and the emergence of differences in viewpoints and opinions were the result of such democracy.

"We have been trying to enhance this democracy for over one year now, and it is the only safeguard against divisions," he told the Jordan Times.

Abed Rabbo's statements followed reports that the DFLP was split into two groups — one headed by DFLP General Secretary Nayef Hawatmeh and the other by Abed Rabbo himself, over the PLO's tactics.

"The Palestinian people cannot afford any divisions, particularly that the uprising is raging in the occupied lands," Abed Rabbo said.

The 27-month-old uprising has changed the relationship between various PLO factions and Arab governments, he said. "When the Palestinian struggle was being waged from

Dismissed Yarmouk staff to be reinstated

By Mariam M. Shabin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Council of Higher Education has decided to allow the reinstatement of academicians and members of the administrative staff at Yarmouk University who were dismissed after student unrest hit the campus in 1986, according to one of the sacked staff members.

The council's decision, which involves 16 academicians and six members of the administrative staff at the university, came less than one week after 150 people held a sit-in in front of the Prime Ministry asking for the reinstatement of people who were dismissed from their jobs for political reasons.

Irbid Deputy Deeb Marji, who was one of the 16 academicians dismissed after the 1986 Yarmouk incident which left three students dead, said the government had moved "quickly" on the reinstatement of the Yarmouk staff.

"A request asking for the reinstatement of the professors at Yarmouk was directly passed on to the prime minister about two weeks ago," Marji told the Jordan Times Tuesday.

The deputy, who is a member of the Democratic bloc in the Lower House of Parliament, said that the government was apparently "doing everything in its power to reinstate as many of the dismissed persons as possible."

The Public Freedoms Committee of the professional unions has adopted the cases of more than 950 "dismissed" persons in the Kingdom. The Ministry of Education has announced that a total of 153 people have been reinstated.

The Council of Higher Education, in a meeting held Monday, also discussed administrative and academic changes in the Kingdom's universities and other institutions of higher education.

On the council's agenda was the establishment of autonomy for the Kingdom's four universities, the possibility of establishing a faculty for Sharia at Yarmouk University, the establishment of student unions, and fees at community colleges, according to one council member.

Old-guard Communists beaten in Soviet polls

MOSCOW (AP) — Supporters of democratic reform won victories across the Soviet Union, defeating old-guard Communists in runoff elections in the Slavic heartland and choosing independence activists in the Baltic republics, according to preliminary results Tuesday.

In Estonia, incomplete results indicated candidates from the pro-independence Popular Front won at least 38 of the 105 seats in the republic's new parliament, said Riia Lohmus, a correspondent for Estonian Radio.

The Estonian Committee, a more radical independence group, won at least 16 seats, and deputies from several small parties supporting the Popular Front platform won several seats,

according to the radio's calculations. Results from about 15 seats had still not been determined, Lohmus said.

Preliminary results from Estonia extended the electoral success of independence movements in the Baltics.

In Lithuania, legislators backed by the Sąjūdis movement declared their republic independent from the Soviet Union after Feb. 24 elections.

The Latvian pro-independence movement also won a clear majority in legislative elections.

Although official results were not expected until Friday, Lempi Tekone, a spokeswoman for the Estonian People's Front said the party expected to have the sup-

port of about three-quarters of the deputies.

The Yedinstvo organisation, representing primarily Russian-speaking residents, probably would control more than 20 per cent of the seats, she said.

Lohmus said Free Estonia, the election front founded by the republic's Communist Party, had won about 10 seats.

Pro-independence activists said the Communists may back the movement in important legislative votes.

Estonia is unlikely to follow Lithuania in pushing hard for independence. Activists say the new parliament is likely to discuss sharing power with the Estonian Congress, a citizens' gathering

that demands independence, and press for talks with the Kremlin.

In Latvia, Popular Front spokesman Kristian Rozensvalds said Monday the pro-independence group hoped to win a two-thirds majority in runoff elections next month.

Reformers also claimed victories in key runoff elections Sunday in Russia, Byelorussia and the Ukraine, the Slavic heartland that accounts for about 80 per cent of Soviet territory and two-thirds of its population.

Some 1,610 runoff elections were held in the Slavic republics after no candidate polled 50 per cent of the vote March 4 in the main round of elections for local parliaments and councils.

Arab apathy has delayed integration

Economist blames industrial nations for Third World plight

AMMAN (Petra) — A leading Arab economist has blamed the deterioration of Third World economies on the policies adopted by the industrialised nations and said the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was supporting these nations against the poorer countries of the world.

Dr. Munir Hamarneh, speaking at a seminar on Arab and international economic cooperation Monday at the Royal Cultural Centre, said that the industrialised nations were selling their manufactured products at very high prices to the developing world, resulting in increased borrowing and the accumulation of foreign debts by Third World countries.

Hamarneh, who works for the Amman-based Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU), accused the IMF of siding with the rich nations and helping them impose their conditions and terms on the poor countries, thus contributing to the aggravation of their plight.

In the early 1980s, the United

States raised interest on deposits from 6.5 per cent to 20 per cent, causing the immediate flight of funds from the developing countries to Western banks, which used them in new investments. "This benefited the wealthy nations and deprived the poor ones of funds for development," Hamarneh pointed out.

He called on the industrialised nations to help the developing countries boost their economic activities and develop their resources so that they can pay back the debts.

Referring to the CAEU and inter-Arab economic cooperation, Hamarneh said that the 1980 Amman summit endorsed a pan-Arab economic strategy to be implemented through the CAEU but "Nothing has been achieved and not a single step was taken to formulate this strategy."

He blamed "selfishness on the part of Arab countries" and "in-difference towards pan-Arab cooperation" for the delay in action in this regard.

Also addressing the seminar, organised by the Arab Women Graduates Club, was Dr. Rafiq Omar from the Arab Cooperation Council's (AOC) general secretariat. He outlined the general economic situation in the world and pointed out the difficulties encountered by the Arab states.

He said the Gulf war, the Lebanese crisis, and Israel's continued aggression on the Arab Nation as well as the Arab states' indebtedness were overburdening the Arab Nation.

Tunisian Ambassador to Jordan Mohammad Al Habib told the Gulf Cooperation Council were deemed necessary to normalise inter-Arab economic cooperation and organise relations with the European Community.

The ambassador underlined the need for maintaining dialogue with the European Community in order to bolster the Arab Nation's economy and to win European support for the Palestinian cause.



Quadruplets born

AMMAN (J.T.) — Four test-tube babies were born five weeks ago at Khalidi Hospital in Amman, according to Dr. Zaid Kilani, director of the Jordan Infertility Centre.

Kilani said the quadruplets were born to a 30-year-old woman, who was infertile for eight years after her marriage.

Contrary to expectations, Kilani said, the delivery took place smoothly and the woman had a normal delivery without resorting to caesarian section. The four babies, two boys and two girls, were born after the seventh month with weights ranging between 1000 and 1500 grammes.

Jordan will recognise accounting certificates

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan will recognise certificates awarded by the Arab Society of Certified Accountants (ASCA), which organises training and examinations for accountants in the Arab World.

The decision was announced by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, upon opening the second Arab international accounting conference at Amman Plaza Hotel Tuesday.

"The society's examinations and certificates for certified accountants will be a pre-requisite for accountants to practice the profession in Jordan," Prince Hassan said.

Underlining the importance of the conference, the Regent said that it was being held at a time when Arab countries are pursuing economic development. "Jordan is open to all meetings

that can enrich knowledge and promote inter-Arab understanding and cooperation for modernisation," the Regent said.

Conference Chairman Talal Abu Ghazaleh delivered a speech in which he paid tribute to Jordan's role in inter-Arab economic cooperation.

Nearly 400 accountants from the Arab World and foreign countries are attending the three-day conference, which will review working papers on experiments in the participating countries.

Chairman of the Jordan Audit Bureau and Audit Profession Dr. Hashim Dabbas is among Jordanians attending the conference along with delegates from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman and North Yemen.

The conference was organised by the Arab Thought Forum and ASCA.

The meeting is also attended by representatives of several major Arab organisations.

Airline advancements must not risk safety, King says

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein said Tuesday that change and expansion in aviation industry in the Middle East were occurring at a fast pace and efforts should be directed at ensuring that these developments guarantee aviation safety as the first priority.

In a keynote address to the first regional aviation safety conference, King Hussein said: "Each and every individual and party involved in aviation tasks should willingly assume a dedicated role to improve on aviation safety and must handle all relevant matters with decisiveness, achievable through knowledge, training, and sound industrial relations." He said that accident prevention should remain the primary objective and can be realised when internal safety policies are established, maintained and implemented.

The conference, organised by the U.S.-based Flight Safety Foundation and Royal Jordanian (RJ), opened Tuesday and is being held under the slogan: "Multiple Dimensions of Aviation Safety."

Participants in the three-day conference are expected to discuss topics related to aviation

safety with particular stress on the human element in all operations. It also touches on measures to be adopted in safety against incidents as well as training of manpower and innovation and development in aviation safety.

The King, whose address was delivered by his political advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, said that he trusted that the Arab Air Carrier Organisation (AACO) would continue to be a model to all Arab carriers in the field of aviation safety.

"Royal Jordanian has taken an initiative in this sensitive area by organising this conference and will continue with solid steps in this respect," the King added.

King Hussein expressed appreciation to the Flight Safety Foundation for its dedicated efforts in organising the conference with RJ to discuss "a very vital issue which is considered the backbone of the airline industry."

RJ Board Chairman Khalidoun Abu Hassan told the conference that civil air transport has all along been the model of international cooperation, and the protection of so many participants from various countries representing aircraft manufacturers, airline operators and regulatory agencies

testifies to this unassailable verity."

He said the participants' efforts during the conference would be directed towards improving aviation safety which is a common goal for all.

"Commercial aviation is the safest form of travel available anywhere today and aircraft are safer than cars," Abu Hassan said.

He said: "Based on data from the National Safety Council, flying in a commercial aircraft was 19 times safer than travelling the same distance by car and that less than one per cent of all transportation fatalities involved commercial aircraft."

RJ President and Chief Executive Officer Husam Abu Ghazaleh said RJ believes that safety is an investment and a high-cost effective approach in assuring the viability of its mission. He thanked AACO for promoting aviation safety and planning to produce an exemplary safety programme for the Middle East region.

Delegates from all Arab airlines are taking part in the conference, which will be addressed by experts from national airlines in Australia, Europe, the U.S., Africa and the Arab World.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Ershad cables good wishes

AMMAN (Petra) — Bangladeshi President Hussein Ershad Tuesday sent a cable of good wishes to His Majesty King Hussein while flying over Jordanian airspace. The president wished King Hussein good health and happiness and the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity.

Regent congratulates Ben Ali

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday sent a cable of congratulation to Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali congratulating him on the occasion of Tunisia's national day anniversary. The Crown Prince wished the president continued good health and happiness and the Tunisian people further progress and prosperity.

Cabinet approves EC loan accord

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet has endorsed a loan agreement with the European Community (EC), whereby the EC will provide Jordan with one million European Currency Units (ECU) towards financing costs of geological projects being carried out by the Natural Resources Authority. The project includes prospecting for copper, sulphur and other mineral resources. The Cabinet also approved the executive programme of cultural and educational cooperation between Jordan and Oman during the next five years. The agreement provides for promoting and enhancing bilateral cooperation in the educational and cultural fields and exchange of expertise in these fields.

JPF announces 20% dividend

AMMAN (J.T.) — The general assembly of the Jordan Press Foundation (JPF) Company Limited held a meeting Tuesday under the chairmanship of Mahmoud Al Kayed, the chairman of the board of directors, and discussed and approved the board's annual report and the audit report and the final account. The assembly also agreed to distribute 20 per cent dividend and assigned Messrs Fahed Al Fanek and Co. as auditors for the company for 1990.

Jordan gets \$1.75m in Canadian wheat

AMMAN (J.T.) — A consignment of Canadian wheat worth \$1.75 million will soon arrive at Aqaba port as a gift to the Jordanian people from the government of Canada, according to Canadian embassy sources. The consignment of 6,400 tonnes is due to arrive in Aqaba Thursday, and will be handed over to the Ministry of Supply.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

THE NATIONAL WEEK FOR SUPPORTING THE INTIFADA

- * Exhibitions of Palestinian heritage and photos of the intifada at Al Razi hall, the Professional Associations Complex (the opening ceremony at 4:00 p.m.).
- * A public rally at Terrace Hall International, opposite the University of Jordan Mosque — 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Exhibition of plastic artists Arij Al Hamad and Ibrahim Al Nabekneh at the Housing Bank Complex.
- * Art exhibition by seven Iraqi artists at Abdal Hameed Shoman Foundation (10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.).
- * Art exhibition entitled "Spanish contemporary engravings" at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * Art exhibition by Ahmad Nawash at the French Cultural Centre.

THEATRE

- * Arabic puppet play entitled "Fables from my Grandmother's Chest" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 4:00 and 6:00 p.m.

CONCERT

- * Piano concert by Walid Hourani at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

LECTURES

- * Lecture in Arabic by Dr. George Attiyeh, head of the Middle East section of the United States Library of Congress, on "the collections on Islam at the Library of Congress" at the University of Jordan's Faculty of Arts — 4:00 p.m.
- * Lecture in Arabic by Minister of Supply Nabil Abul Huda on "Subsidy Policy in Jordan" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.
- * Lecture in Arabic by Lt.-Gen. Mohammad Fawzi, former Egyptian war minister, entitled "New Facts on the Attrition War (1968-70)" at Abdal Hameed Shoman Foundation — 6:00 p.m.

FILM

- * French film entitled "Sept Morts Sur Ordre" at the French Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

RJ, Canada conclude course

AMMAN (J.T.) — The second three-week course on management of airline commercial services and computer applications course, organised by the Montreal-based International Aviation Management Training Institute (IAMTI), in association with Royal Jordanian Airlines has ended March 19.

The objective of the course is to provide airline managers with the skills and knowledge in the use of the personal desk-top computer as a cost effective management tool and its specific applications in the airline industry.

Renowned pianist performs in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — Renowned pianist Walid Hourani will perform tonight at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

Awarded the Certificate of Honour at the International Tchaikovsky Competition at the age of eighteen and the Laureate in the Queen Elizabeth of Belgium Competition two years later, Walid Raja Hourani established his credentials early as a significant new talent. This was confirmed by subsequent concert tours in the USSR, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Austria, East Germany, Belgium, Egypt and Lebanon, as well as in Canada and the United States where he has performed in over 100 cities.

Born in New York in 1948,

Walid was brought up in Beirut, where at the age of 13 he came to the attention of Soviet Armenian composer Aram Khachaturian, who was responsible for his receiving scholarships to study at Moscow's famed Central Music School from which he graduated with high distinction. Following this he studied at the Tchaikovsky Conservatory for seven years for his Master's Degree and other postgraduate work under the celebrated pianists Yakov Saka and Emil Gilels.

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OUT OF FOCUS

Of 'service' and service

By Adnan Saad Aql

THE OTHER DAY I got onto a service taxi to Sweileh from Abdali after checking my pocket and deciding that it was wiser and more prudent on "service" than on meter. I was the fourth passenger, having found a seat in the front, and the driver looked around anxiously for a fifth. Minutes ticked by, and no-one turned up; everyone in the car appeared resigned for a long wait. The driver was looking at me with an apparent message but I was at a loss. "I hope none of you is in a hurry," was the driver's gambit, addressing us all. "Not at all, take your time," came a quick response from the back seat.

The driver sighed. "Gone are the days when I did not have to wait for a fifth passenger," he said, lighting a rolled cigarette. "Someone was always there to offer the extra fare for one so that I could take off."

"I guess times have changed," he added. "Now, I have trouble getting enough passengers," he said. That was unfair, I wanted to tell him, particularly because he was getting passengers like me who used to use metered cabs. But the thought that he might ask me to pay the extra fare for the fifth seat stopped me. Not that I minded paying it, but simply that I did not have it. So I opted to make some sympathetic noise and scan around for the elusive passenger who would fill the vacant seat.

Well, another couple of minutes, and he turned up — in the form of a traditionally garbed elder. He waved me in, ignoring my plea that I wanted to get down half-way to Sweileh. "I don't like middle seats," he explained. It suited me fine though, since I did not have to wear the seat-belt.

Soon we were on our way. The driver lit another cigarette and started his routine of collecting the fare. Everyone paid, and he began complaining about lack of change. "See, I have put a sign up here," he pointed to a small cardboard sticker saying "Please tender exact change."

I wanted to point out that he also had a "no-smoking" sign in the form of an X across a cigarette, but thought it would be wiser to endure the smoke coming from left and right (the elder, it appeared, was also a chain smoker) for another five minutes.

Having concluded the fare collection process, the driver launched a monologue of how difficult life was getting with the rising cost of spare parts and tyres. "I used to pay JD 90 for an annual overhaul of my engine," he said. "Now, I will not dream of entering the workshop without JD 200."

"That is, of course, not to mention the traffic fines I have to pay. It simply beats me how the policemen step out of the shadows to wave me down and slap a fine," he lamented. From the looks of things, particularly the reckless way he was driving, it was only natural that he attracts fines more than candy attracts flies, I thought but kept it to myself.

Soon, it was time for me to disembark. I made a grumbling noise, and he pulled up. I got out and crossed the street. "Please mister," I heard a call behind me. It was the driver extending his hand with a 50 fils coin — the change I forgot to collect from him.

Israeli coalition collapse kindles Palestinian hopes

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The collapse of the multi-party coalition government in Israel has boosted the hopes of the Palestinian people living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip for a solution to the Palestinian problem, according to a leading activist from the Gaza Strip.

However, the hopes essentially centre around the possibility that the left-of-centre Labour Party, which says it favours "territorial compromise" as the key to peace, said Faysel Abu Rahme, a prominent lawyer from Gaza.

"We hope that the new Israeli government will be formed by the Labour Party because we believe and hope that it will deal more seriously with the Palestinians and the peace process," Abu Rahme told the Jordan Times Tuesday.

Abu Rahme, who is currently on a private visit to Jordan, said that although the collapse of the Israeli government last week would delay the peace process "until the political scene in Israel is reorganised," he did not believe that it was a "show." He said that the downfall of the government appeared to be stage-managed, but that he believed that in reality it was due to serious differences between Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing Likud Party and Shimon Peres's Labour Party on the peace process.

According to Abu Rahme, the Palestinians had harboured little hope for peace when the Likud-led government was in power since it had no real and serious intention to make just peace with the Palestinians. "It insisted on implementing autonomy for Palestinians rather than talking with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and accepting the principle of exchanging land for peace," he noted.

"Palestinians were pleased with the fall of Shamir's government, especially that it did not show any moderation; all its lines were of fanaticism and

extremism, without any flexibility," commented Abu Rahme, who is strongly favoured to be included in a Palestinian delegation in any peace negotiations with Israel.

Although many Palestinians find it only remotely possible that a Labour-led government would accept to negotiate with the PLO, the lawyer said, "Nothing is impossible in politics. What seems impossible today in Arab-Israeli politics may be possible tomorrow. Positions are moveable and policies may change. Whoever thought in the 1940s that Germany and France would both become members of the same North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) in the 1950s?"

Abu Rahme reiterated that Israel should open negotiations with the PLO, which, he said, the Palestinians in the occupied territories regard as their sole and legitimate representative.

"The PLO has the mandate. It can make concessions without being accused of being a traitor as an ordinary person who does not have the mandate and who may make political concessions on behalf of the Palestinians. So it is beneficial for the peace process to have a party with a full mandate from the (Palestinian) population. And the only one in the Palestinian field is the PLO," he said.

Hamas role

Abu Rahme denied that the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas — an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood — was dominant in the Gaza Strip, saying it represented no more than 15 per cent of the population. He described "the rumours" in the international media that the group was more influential and strong in Gaza than the PLO as an Israeli attempt to undermine Palestinian unity.

"Israel tries to split us by spreading word that extremism and fundamentalism are strong in the occupied territories. In reality, Hamas does not represent more than 15 per cent of



Faysel Abu Rahme

the Gaza population," he said. Abu Rahme, who is representing Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmad Yassin who is on trial by an Israeli court, said that the underground Unified Leadership of the Uprising, which includes PLO supporters, remains the dominant factor in the occupied territories, issuing calls for strikes and demonstrations. He noted that the majority of the people complies with the calls of the unified leadership.

"For example, Hamas is not stronger than Islamic Jihad, a Palestinian military group. But I'm basing my judgement according to my observations and not on scientific merits," he said.

The lawyer added that Hamas strategy contradicts the strategy of the secular PLO.

"Hamas is a group which bases its ideology that all Palestine ought to be an Islamic republic and does not believe in political solutions, a strategy that contradicts that of the PLO," Abu Rahme said.

He described Hamas's strategy as "unrealistic" because, "unlike the PLO, which enjoys the largest popular Palestinian support, the group is dealing with the impossible."

"But in every community there are people who deal with both the possible and the impossible," he commented.

Abu Rahme warned that if Israel does not respond positively to the Palestinian overtures for peace and if the United States does not seriously intervene by pressuring Israel to respond as such, Palestinian fundamentalism and extremism will become stronger.

"Therefore, it is the responsibility of American, Arab and other leaders of the world to help Palestinian moderation and let it bear fruit," Abu Rahme said.

Arab money can counter new Israeli presence in East Europe — analyst

By Mariam M. Shablin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — As a result of the thaw in East-West relations following the recent "opening up and liberalisation" in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, Israeli popularity has grown in the East bloc and American aid to Israel and other countries in the region is likely to change in character, according to an Arab-American political analyst.

"The people in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union are rejecting everything that was associated with the 'ancient regime' at this point and one of the characteristics of that era in their history was excellent relations with the Arab World," said Adeed Issam Dawisha, an Iraqi-born professor of political science at George Mason University in Virginia in a lecture delivered Monday at the American University of Beirut Alumni Club.

Dawish explained that Soviet and Eastern European intellectuals were rejecting in principle what their former governments had built up in the last 40 years, including support for the Arab World against Israel. Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia have already established diplomatic ties with Israel.

"The initial political 'net gain' that Israel has achieved in

the next five years," Dawisha said. He added that much of the funds that would thus become available may not necessarily be channelled as foreign aid since there are many internal American ills which need solutions. He said that as a result of events in Eastern Europe he expected that part of the \$11 billion annual American foreign aid would be channelled to Eastern Europe rather than the more traditional recipients of the U.S., including Israel and Egypt.

He said that while some "traditional" U.S. allies in the Middle East may be "hit" by a diversion of funds to Eastern Europe, traditional allies of

Israeli arguments against moving on the peace process," he said.

Communism

The Warsaw Pact, the political science professor said, is on the "verge of collapsing" and warned that the future of the USSR, "as we know it, is in question." He said that although he believed that the communist ideology was disappearing as such, he doubted if the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe would replace it with "rampant capitalism."

"One should not write off socialism quickly. If the two systems (communism and capitalism) were mixed creatively

"Arab leaders should realise that U.S. military support for Israel will always be there... Arabs should not hit their heads against the wall"

we would have the ideal system," he said. He predicted the recent events in the East bloc would bring about a global shift from an "ideological" competition to economic competition between the United States and the Soviet Union.

He also said that a multipolar rather than a bi-polar division of power was likely as a result of the recent changes in the East bloc.

Continued military presence of the Soviet Union and the United States in Europe, he said, is not an indication of a lingering military conflict or a continuation of a political war but a "security against a united Germany," since a fear of such an entity still existed.

Jewish immigration

Dawisha said that he felt that very little could be done on a political level to halt the massive influx of Soviet Jews to Israel. He said that only thing he thought could be done was to "continue the watchdog system to ensure that Israel does not smuggle Soviet Jews into the occupied territories through the backdoor."

He said he believed that the recent uproar in the Arab World in general and Jordan in particular had already resulted in an increase in the immigration quota in the United States. "You have done quite a lot. For one, you have pressured the U.S. to increase its quota of Soviet immigrants from 50,000 to 80,000."

He added that recent peace moves by Arab leaders, including the Palestinian leadership, had resulted in a big change in public opinion in the U.S. vis-a-vis the Arabs.

"The Arab Americans have also done their best to improve the image of Arabs and the Arab causes in the U.S. All these have helped but, of course, the single most important event that has changed both the U.S. and world opinion has undoubtedly been the intifada," Dawisha concluded.

"The people in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union are rejecting everything that was associated with the 'ancient regime'... (including) excellent relations with the Arab World"

Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union can only be countered in one way and that is catering to the economic needs of the East bloc," Dawisha said. "The East bloc needs a massive influx of investment right now and that's where the Arab World can make its mark (and) counter Israel's current political presence there," Dawisha added.

Although Israel has already started entering agricultural and other agreements with Eastern European countries, the Arab World has greater potential as buyers as well as suppliers to the East bloc, according to Dawisha.

He said that the "economic factor" coupled with the presence of 60 million Muslims in Soviet Central Asia would balance Israel's new presence in the East bloc.

Dawisha, whose lecture was entitled "Events in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe: Their Impact on the Middle East and the United States Relations," said that as a result of the thaw in East-West relations the United States government could change the form and destination of much of its \$260 billion defence expenditure. "If the East-West thaw continues the U.S. could cut that figure by 50 per cent over

solving the Middle East problem although it is plagued by problems in Europe, the Soviet Union and Latin America.

He said the attitude of the U.S. government had changed considerably after "the demise of (Ronald) Reagan and the advent of (George) Bush." He said that while the U.S. government would never stop supporting Israel, the current administration was trying to help Israel help itself.

Arab leaders, he said, "have to accept that U.S. military support for Israel will always be there... Arabs should not hit their head against the wall."

He added that he believed the Bush administration to be more "flexible and pragmatic" than the Reagan administration and that it was trying to make Israel realise that peace was in its best interests.

Talking to the Jordan Times after the lecture, Dawisha insisted that continued U.S. military support for Israel, coupled with increasing political pressure on the Jewish state to take steps towards peace in the region, did not constitute a double standard in American policy.

"The quality of giving arms and pushing politically will help Bush counter-attack

Cases of corruption

(Continued from page 1)

Production Company, the King Talal Dam, barter trade deals with Iraq and Syria, purchase of boats for the Dead Sea, the King Abdullah Complex, the Ministry of Supply's accounts in Washington, the Postal Savings Fund, fertiliser and potash projects, Japanese and French loans for telecommunication projects, the Deir Alla pipeline project, expansion work at the cement factory, and "sale" of Jordanian passports.

According to a source quoted by Reuters, the House committee also wanted an inquiry into Royal Jordanian, and sought government explanations over the takeover in August of Petra Bank and the Jordan Gulf Bank and a report on what action had been taken since.

The House step to refer the cases to the attorney general was endorsed by 76 votes against four abstentions, according to a source quoted by the Associated Press.

An independent deputy said Finance Committee Chairman Abdullah Ensour presented "documentation that could help indict some officials provided the information was helpful in an investigation by the judiciary."

He added that one deputy proposed the establishment of an independent investigation panel to follow up on the committee's report and remove many ambiguities clouding most of the cases.

"Overall," the deputy said, "the report was a disappointment. It was below people's expectations and aspirations in terms of not providing enough evidence."

He added that "the most important conclusion we reached is that the committee is very limited in its ability to deal with such an incredible task and that if the executive and judicial branches of government do not cooperate, it will be only a waste of time."

Another deputy said that Islamists in the House "appeared, surprisingly, quite satisfied with the committee's findings." The Christian deputy explained that "considering the high expectations which were built up since the election campaign, it was quite disappointing to hear what we heard today."

"We are all aware of the limitations of the committee — both personal and technical, and the promises that were made were far more than what has been achieved," he added.

The deputy argued that although the committee did not directly implicate names in the report, "it mentioned projects and cases that could easily be linked to certain officials or individuals."

"Most of the information presented did not go much beyond what is known by the man in the street," one source told the Jordan Times. "Some documents were presented but they are hardly enough if not taken seriously by the judiciary," he stressed.

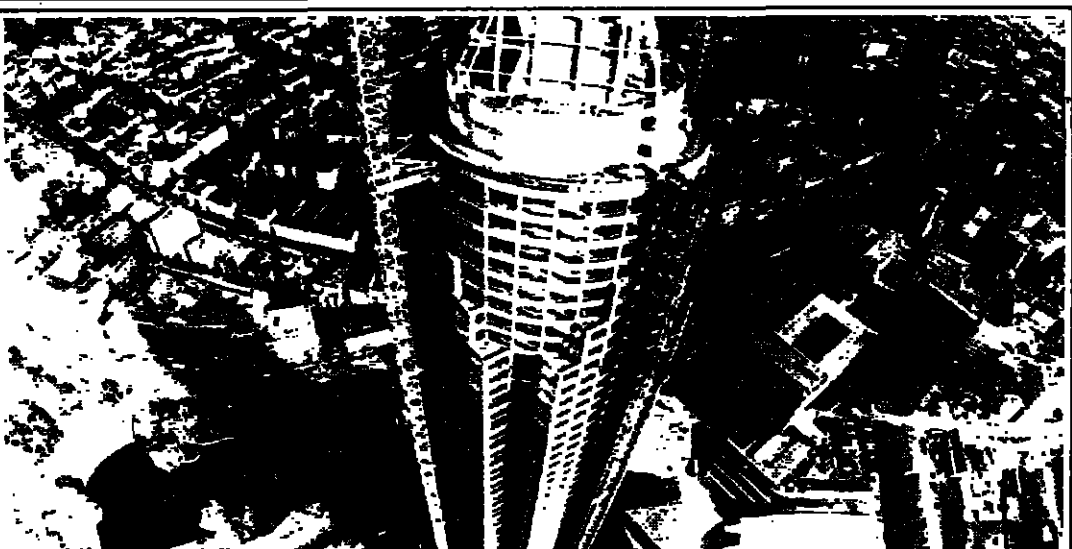
Assessing the reaction of the House, the deputy said: "There seemed to be some kind of accommodation among some deputies, giving the impression that the committee's report was satisfactory."

"Deputies who raised hell during the election campaign, promising to put this or that official behind bars, appeared quite domesticated... it looked as if it was some kind of a deal between the Islamists and the committee," he said.

An Islamist deputy said the accusations were "totally groundless and vindictive." He refused to elaborate or to give details about the House's deliberations.

Some of the information provided by the committee "only served to cast doubts about certain projects and persons," the independent deputy said. "It is unfair to expect the committee to do more than that. But the disappointment is inevitable in light of the high expectations that were fuelled by exaggerated pledges by deputies before and after the elections."

"The House's authorities are defined by the Constitution and are limited in their nature to legislation," he said. "It would have been better if the House adopted a more modest, realistic and practical approach so as not to cause such disappointments. It is important for each to know their limitations."



EUROPE'S TALLEST OFFICE TOWER:

The tallest office building in Europe, the Trade Fair Tower in Frankfurt am Main, has just been topped out. On completion in August it will be 256 metres tall, towering like a gigantic needle into the sky over the German banking capital. The first firm has already moved in, taking up residence down on the 19th floor (Photo: DaD/AP)

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Vicini lists Argentina, Brazil and Netherlands as favourites

MILAN (AP) — Italian manager Azeglio Vicini has picked Argentina, Brazil and the Netherlands as the favourite teams in the World Cup which kicks off in June.

"It's up to other managers to name Italy in the bunch of potential title winners, which could also include West Germany, England and Spain," he said.

Vicini, who has been heading the Italian squad since 1986, said he expects that few goals in the World Cup, with defenses prevailing over offenses, and added that some underdog teams such as Costa Rica, Colombia and the United States could do unexpectedly well if they take risks.

The Italian manager made his remarks during a news conference organized by Milan's World Cup organising committee Monday.

About the U.S. team, which is in the World Cup group A with Italy, Vicini said "it's a good team, which relies on European-

style tactics, including a sweeper behind defenders."

"There are good reasons for not underestimating the U.S. team. The Americans are very strong athletically and have been concentrating on the World Cup for a year."

"The U.S. team, along with Colombia and Costa Rica, could achieve sensational, unexpected results in the World Cup because they play with enthusiasm and have nothing to lose."

The World Cup clash between the Italian and U.S. teams is scheduled at Rome's Olympic stadium June 14.

Vicini explained that the Latin American teams — namely Argentina and Brazil — are among the favourites because most of their players perform in Europe "and will have no problems in getting used to the Italian weather and turf."

He disclosed that Salvatore Schillaci, the young striker of

Juventus of Turin who is doing extremely well in his first season in the major league, may be called for the March 31 exhibition game against Switzerland in Basel.

Schillaci would substitute for Gianluca Vialli, who is nursing a foot injury.

The manager also disclosed that Italy will play a warmup match against Greece May 30, 10 days before its World Cup debut against Austria.

About soccer-related violence, Vicini said players and referees must cooperate "to give a non-violent image of the World Cup."

"Police must be on the alert on the islands, but I hope that the natural beauties of those places will help in calming fans down."

The most troublesome European supporters from England and the Netherlands will be concentrated during the initial round of games on the islands of Sicily and Sardinia.

Tennis tournament postponed by rain

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (AP) — No. 3 seed Stefan Edberg had an easy 6-2, 6-1 win over Amos Mansdorf Monday in the third round of the international players championships, which was later postponed because of rain.

Rising star Jennifer Capriati, meanwhile, experienced her first upset as a professional, losing to qualifier Nathalie Herremman of France 6-2, 6-4 in the fourth round of women's action.

Herremman, ranked no. 113, advanced into the quarterfinals of a tournament for the first time since 1987.

Only three other singles matches were completed before rain forced the postponement of play.

In suspended matches, top-seeded Ivan Lendl led Marcelo Filippini 6-0, 4-2, and no. 2 Boris Becker led Jean Flaurian 3-1.

Capriati's recovery fell to 8-2 since she started her pro career this month. The 13-year-old played well in her only other loss, to third-ranked Gabriela Sabatini in the finals of the Virginia Slims of Florida.

While unheralded, Herremman had been playing well, losing just nine games in her previous next matches.

"I didn't feel the pressure at all" the 23-year left hander said. "I was pretty cool."

"I think there was more pressure on her than on me. Everybody wants her to win. It's difficult. You can't win every game."

Herremman, combining topspin and slice groundstrokes, rarely gambled for winners and was content to keep the ball in play until Capriati made a mistake. The strategy worked, as the teen committed 53 unforced errors to 33 for Herremman.

Herremman broke Capriati three times for a 5-0 lead in the first set, which took just 30 minutes. Capriati held serve at love for a 4-3 lead in the second set, but Herremman broke serve two games later when Capriati made two unforced errors after the score had reached deuce.

Marseille, Papin look ahead

MARSEILLE (R) — Marseille and top striker Jean-Pierre Papin confidently expect to move nearer their goal of becoming the first French side to win the European Cup when they meet Cika Sofia Wednesday.

The attractive side assembled at de luxe prices by millionaire President Bernard Tapie already have their sights on a place in the last four after beating the Bulgarians 1-0 in Sofia in the first leg of the quarter-finals two weeks ago.

Though only three French clubs — Reims, St Etienne and Bordeaux — have ever gone as far as the semifinals and none was able to claim the trophy, Marseille have no complexes.

Tapie set the European Cup as the season's priority and put the diamond he has in Papin into its proper setting by signing up a true collection of soccer jewels in Brazilian sweeper Carlos Mozer, English winger Chris Waddle and striker Enzo Francescoli of Uruguay.

Danish club Brondby and Aek Athens were swept aside in earlier rounds and Cika themselves hold little hope of stopping Marseille's progress.

"Marseille are the Milan of tomorrow," Bulgarian trainer Dimitar Penev said at the weekend, paying the French the ultimate compliment. "They are already a great side and they are still improving. If they beat us, I can see them in the final."

If they go as far much of the credit must be handed to the priceless Papin — captain, star and executioner-in-chief for the Marseille millionaires. He has already grabbed 33 goals in all competitions this season.

Papin scored in each match during the first two rounds of the European Cup and set up the goal for Philippe Thys in Sofia.

With five goals in two league matches last week, including a hat-trick against Toulon Saturday, he is almost impossible to stop at present without resorting to sophisticated military hardware.

The visitors pin their slender hopes on their own Papin. Khristov, who will play for Barcelona next season after a \$6-million transfer, disappointed in the first leg when he was completely blotted out of the match by defender Eric Mura, playing his first game of the season.

But Penev said his star player was not fully fit then and would show his true worth in Marseille. Stochkov scored the first goal in Saturday's 5-2 win over Etar Tirnovo to carry their unbeaten run for the season to 19 league games.

Marseille are likely to be at full strength with the exception of suspended midfielder Philippe Vercruysse. Mozer is expected to be back in action for the first time since twisting his knee in Sofia though there is a slight doubt about Francescoli who has a calf injury.

Mura and Thys, the two heroes of the first leg, may have to pay the price of playing among a galaxy of stars by stepping back to the substitutes' bench.

AC Milan seeks confidence boost in European showdown

MILAN (R) — Since AC Milan's first European Cup quarter-final leg against Mechelen of Belgium, the Italian holders have fallen dramatically apart.

Two weeks ago, they boasted an unbeaten 16-match league run and were well ahead in the Italian Championship race.

Now, after a 0-0 draw in the first leg and two consecutive defeats in the domestic league, Milan desperately need to regain their winning ways if they are to reach the semifinals.

"Certainly something's wrong," said captain Franco Baresi after the world club champions followed a 3-0 defeat at Juventus by losing 3/1 to Internazionale in the Milan Derby Sunday.

"The offside trap isn't working as well as it should."

"Maybe Wednesday's match will give us the impetus we need to regain the edge in the league as well," said Baresi.

"Only a great Milan will get through — but I don't think

we've turned into a bad side overnight."

Not surprisingly, Mechelen scout Julien Aerts, who watched the Derby defeat, said he was happy with what he saw.

"Milan had to swallow three goals for the second time in a row... but I don't believe stories saying they are exhausted. They remain a world-class side," Aerts said.

Alessandro Costacurta, who scored Milan's only goal against Inter, is disqualified after being booked in Belgium March 7 and injury-prone stopper Filippo Galli will take his place.

All of Milan's international class players, including Baresi, arguably Europe's finest libero, and Dutch internationals Marco Van Basten and Frank Rijkaard, lacked their customary edge against Inter.

Italy midfielder Roberto Donadoni, who recently returned to the side after injury, was clearly Milan's sharpest player Sunday and it could be his night again Wednesday.

Mechelen prepared for Milan Saturday with an easy 4-0 workout in their own Deby against neighbours racing Mechelen to go third in the Belgian First Division, three points behind joint leaders Anderlecht and Club Brugge.

"The Derby was excellent preparation for the Milan match," said Belgian international midfielder Bruno Versavel.

"Milan have a 6-1 negative aggregate score from their last two matches combined, we have a 4-0 positive score... it shows their defence is shaky," Van Hoof said on arrival in Milan.

Van Hoof said it was unlikely he would bring any changes to the line-up for the second leg: "I don't see why I should change my team. Everything went all right in the first leg."

An unchanged team would include five Belgian internationals including keeper Michel Preud'homme, and Dutch internationals Graeme Rutjes and Johnny Bosman.

Women hockey championship held

OTTAWA (AP) — Women's hockey came of age Monday — complete with TV coverage, international recognition and goals galore — as the first world championship got under way.

Canada beat Sweden 15-1 at the tournament's official opening at the Civic Centre Arena, a few miles from the residence of the governor general, where the first women's hockey game is reported to have been played in 1891.

About 2,000 people were at the Canada-Sweden game and crowds were sparse-to-non-existent at other games in arenas scattered around the city. But the players made up for the lack of fan frenzy with their own enthusiasm.

"It's great to play against different cultures out here," said United States team captain Tina Caron, who led her club to a 16-3 drubbing of Switzerland. In other games, Finland beat Norway 10-1 and West Germany handled Japan 4-1.

Canada and the United States are favoured to meet for the championship Sunday. They won't play during the tournament because Canada is in pool A with Sweden, West Germany and Japan while the United States is in pool B with Finland, Norway and Switzerland.

Cardinale scored three goals and had five assists while Cammi Granato had three goals and an assist. The Americans put the game away with nine goals in the third period.

"I think that gave us a lot of confidence," Granato said. "We didn't know what to expect."

The world championship — being played at four arenas in the Ottawa area — is the first sanctioned by the International Ice Hockey Federation.

ROME (AP) — It will be three years before the "Joan of Arc" of Lazio's superstars will attend another game of her beloved Rome soccer team.

Isabella Di Giovanni, 21, has become the first woman in Italy convicted of violence at a soccer game.

She was one of six people arrested at the Flaminio stadium Sunday after police waded into the stands to halt pitched battles between supporters of Lazio and its arch-rival, Roma, and to keep the fans from invading the field.

Di Giovanni spent a night in jail, received a 100-day suspended sentence and was barred from attending games for three years. She was accused of assaulting police officers.

"Lions in the crowd, sheep

before the judge," said Rome's Il Tempo newspaper.

"It's true," she confessed to the judge in court Monday. "I also threw something at the police but I lost my head. Only a few seconds before I saw the police beat up a dear friend."

The quick trial of Di Giovanni and the others and sentences aimed at keeping troublemakers out of the stadiums for up to five years are part of a crackdown on soccer violence as Italy's prepares to take centre stage as host of soccer's World Cup, a monthlong event that will be followed by hundreds of millions on television worldwide.

Di Giovanni is described as a regular at Lazio games both home and away, a fixture in bluejeans and black paratrooper boots in the stands behind the goals, the cheap seats taken over by the "irriducible," or unshakable fans.

boots in the stands behind the goals, the cheap seats taken over by the "irriducible," or unshakable fans.

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NORTH
♠ K 7 6 4
♥ 7 6
♦ 6 3 2
♣ K Q 5 2

WEST
♠ 9
♥ Q J 10 8 3
♦ A Q 4
♣ 9 8 6 3

EAST
♠ Q 10 8
♥ 5 4 2
♦ J 10 9 7
♣ 10 4

SOUTH
♠ A J 5 3 2
♥ A 2
♦ K 5 5
♣ A J 7

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass
Opening lead: Queen of ♥
Be wary of telling anyone how to play a suit combination. What is the percentage play in one suit alone could be completely wrong when taken in the context of the hand as a whole.
As an example, consider the trump suit on this hand in isolation. The best chance to avoid a spade loser, by a small margin, is to cash the high trumps ("Eight ever, nine never"). Now let's look at the combined North-South assets.
North-South have arrived at four

spades after a normal auction and West has led the queen of hearts. Declarer has six sure tricks in the side suits, so he needs only four trump tricks to make his game. Is there any threat to the contract?
Yes. If East gains the lead to push a diamond through the king, declarer is in danger of losing three tricks in that suit.
Forewarned that the normal approach could lead to defeat should steer you to the right line of play. The only suit where East can gain the lead is trumps, so declarer must plan the campaign to keep East off lead. There is a simple way to accomplish that.
Win the king of hearts, cross to the king of spades and lead another spade. When East produces a low trump, finesse the jack! That's an anti-percentage play, but it guarantees the contract. If West produces the lady, you have lost a trick unnecessarily, but you are in complete control. You win any return and take your 10 tricks.
Should the cards lie as in the diagram, the safety play in trumps is necessary to deliver the contract. Had you cashed the king-ace of trumps, East would be able to ruff the third club and shoot the jack of diamonds through, resulting in a one-trick set.

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Gorbachev warns Estonia amid signs of deadlock with Lithuania

MOSCOW (R) — President Mikhail Gorbachev has warned Estonia against trying to declare independence from the Soviet Union amid signs of increasing deadlock between the Kremlin and breakaway Lithuania.

A report in Tuesday's edition of the official Estonian daily Paevait said Gorbachev told members of the republic's Communist Party leadership at a four-hour meeting Monday that the "road chosen by Lithuania leads to a dead end."

"Gorbachev pointed out that in the event of a divorce it is not important whether the marriage was contracted legally or not," the newspaper added. "The property must be divided none the less."

Gorbachev has ordered Soviet government action to reverse Lithuania's week-old independence declaration in line with his three-day ultimatum which expired Monday requiring the Baltic republic to return to the Soviet fold.

Tanks and troops were reported deploying in large numbers in southern Lithuania over the weekend.

But Lithuanian leader Vytautas Landsbergis rejected a hardline statement by Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov Monday night asserting Soviet control over key industries in the rebel republic.

Lithuanian ownership of industry on its territory was "unquestionable according to international law, and cannot be changed by unilateral decisions of the Soviet Union," the statement said.

Landsbergis added: "But to resolve the question of the ownership of these industries it is necessary to have two sides which are willing to sit down at the negotiating table."

Gorbachev's announcement said the government was empowered to "implement a series of priority measures" to enforce a Soviet parliamentary decision declaring the Lithuanian move invalid.

It was unclear what action would be taken, but a separate government statement signed by

Ryzhkov suggested troops could be deployed at strategic installations.

It branded as illegal Lithuania's pledge to take control of all Soviet enterprises on its soil.

Political tensions were stoked even further as radical candidates, or those demanding independence, scored well in incomplete results from Sunday's parliamentary and local elections in five Soviet republics.

Gorbachev's action made use of the new broad powers of the country's executive presidency, to which he was elected by the Soviet parliament last week.

Since Lithuania's legislature made its breakaway move Gorbachev has refused to agree to "negotiations," saying those were reserved for foreign relations. But he has twice offered to hold less formal "discussions."

TASS said the government's move came after Gorbachev received a letter from Landsbergis refusing to accept the Soviet parliament's decision.

Gorbachev's warning to the

Estonians clearly reflected Kremlin concern that the republic's new parliament, chosen in weekend elections, might follow the example of Lithuania and attempt to reassert its pre-war independence.

Initial results from the Estonian elections reported Tuesday showed that deputies from the local Popular Front and other pro-independence movements had already gained a majority of the 105 seats so far in the count.

"It looks like pro-independence candidates will have a majority in the new parliament," said Mikil Tiitma. "The Inter-Movement will not get more than 30 seats or so."

However, Soove said he believed it unlikely that the newly-elected Estonian parliament would immediately declare independence, predicting it would opt instead to open negotiations with the Kremlin.

"I do not think that Estonia will follow Lithuania's path," he said. "We will proceed along another way."

Sun sets on Africa's last colony

WINDHOEK, Namibia (Agencies) — Foreign leaders and diplomats streamed in to Windhoek Tuesday as Namibia counted down the final hours before independence at midnight.

Seventy-five years of South African rule was to end with a speech by South African President F.W. de Klerk before the South African flag was lowered for the last time and replaced by the red, green and blue banner of the new nation.

De Klerk arrived in Namibia Tuesday to oversee the final day of South African rule and the birth of the new nation.

He was welcomed at Windhoek's airport by a beaming President-Elect Sam Nujoma, the man who led the left-leaning South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) in a 23-year guerrilla war against Pretoria's rule.

At midnight (2200 GMT) Nujoma will take the reins of government from his old adversary at Windhoek Sports Stadium before tens of thousands in a ceremony marking Namibia's independence.

After brief private talks, De Klerk, accompanied by South African Foreign Minister P. W. Botha, left the airport for a 40-kilometre drive into the normally sleepy Namibian capital, now decked out with flags of the new republic and choked by convoys of excited citizens and cavalcades of foreign dignitaries.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar will preside over the celebrations which bring to an end the world body's most expensive and most successful peacekeeping operation.

"The implementation of Re-

solution 435 (the U.N. independence plan) was one of the most complex operations ever undertaken by the United Nations," Perez de Cuellar told a contingent of U.N. peacekeeping troops after an inspection Tuesday.

The U.N. mission supervising the transition to independence began in near-disaster last April when South African troops killed hundreds of SWAPO guerrillas who had crossed the border from Angola.

Meetings between the scores of world leaders and officials attending the celebrations have pushed Namibian politics onto the sidelines.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze are due to meet Tuesday evening and Baker is scheduled to have talks with West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher Wednesday. Both meetings are expected to dwell on the East German election.

Earlier Baker is due to hold talks with Angolan President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos, the highest-level meeting ever between the two countries, on ways to end the crippling civil war which is ravaging Namibia's northern neighbor.

But as world leaders ready for their business, ordinary Namibians are preparing to celebrate the end of outside rule in style.

Police patrols have been drafted in from Johannesburg to control the crowds, but the atmosphere is completely relaxed ahead of Africa's biggest party.

"Namibian people should open their hearts and show the generosity to the many international friends they have," Foreign

Minister-Elect Theo-Ben Gurirab said Tuesday.

Years of squabbling over the constitutional future of Namibia and the ravages of the 23-year-long civil war between SWAPO guerrillas and South African-led troops have been forgotten in favour of a spirit of peace and reconciliation.

Namibian television carries regular appeal calling for the country's divided races and tribal groups to work together for a peaceful future.

"The spirit of independence is in the air. A vibrant young nation is being born," the advertisements say.

"This is a great time. It means we have freedom. We are going to celebrate all night," said Nicholas Van Wyk, 21, a hotel worker.

Among the foreign guests attending the celebrations are Baker and Shevardnadze; Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak; Libyan Leader Muammar Qaddafi; the leaders of at least 10 African nations; and the foreign ministers of Britain, West Germany, Romania, Indonesia and other nations.

Many Namibians expressed hope that the new nation would solve past radical differences and overcome the economic and political problems facing many poor African nations.

"Other African countries have had disappointments after independence. I hope we have learned from those economic and political mistakes," said Simon Ekomo, a student.

Some whites expressed concern about the new black government, but said they wanted to support the new nation.

Chinese premier gives tough warning to opponents of party

PEKING (R) — Chinese Premier Li Peng called Tuesday for an unrelenting crackdown on political dissent in a hardline speech demonstrating the Communist Party's resolve not to follow Eastern Europe and yield power.

Addressing the opening session of the National People's Congress, China's rubber-stamp parliament which meets yearly, Li launched into an attack on last year's pre-democracy protests.

Li, wearing a smart Western-style business suit, said China had won "great, historic victories" in crushing the nationwide movement aimed at toppling the party.

His voice rising to a pitch, Li drew much applause from the 2,700 assembled delegates in the Great Hall of the People when he praised the army and police for their role in the Peking crackdown which cost the lives of hundreds, possibly thousands, of

civilians last June.

"We salute them highly," he said.

The bulk of Li's two hour and 20 minute speech was devoted to the need for political stability and unity which he said the party had achieved through its correct policies.

He also indicated the government would relax its economic austerity policy which has driven bankrupt state enterprises to the wall and made millions unemployed.

Li, a 61-year-old technocrat, signalled that the party would persist with its crackdown on dissent while reasserting its authority over almost all walks of life, from the arts to education and population control.

Western diplomats said the hard line taken by the government showed that Li still enjoyed the support of powerful veteran

revolutionaries, pulling strings behind the scenes.

Li, the adopted son of the late Premier Zhou Enlai, paid tribute in his opening remarks to the "proletarian revolutionaries of the older generation" led by senior leader Deng Xiaoping.

Deng, did not attend the opening session. No reason was given for his absence although he was a member of the session's presidium.

Deng's designated successor, Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin, and military strongman President Yang Shangkun, were among the top leaders at the meeting.

Li criticised past leadership mistakes in an implicit attack on Zhao Ziyang, the reformist party leader ousted by hardliners after the June crackdown. Zhao, who has not been seen for 10 months, was not mentioned by name.

Punjab bomb kills 6 in new wave of violence

CHANDIGARH, India (R) — A bomb exploded near a crowded market in the Punjab capital of Chandigarh Tuesday, killing six people, including the two suspected Sikh separatists who were carrying it, Indian police said.

They said the bomb, which also injured at least 13 people, apparently exploded prematurely.

It went off in front of a government health clinic, but police said they believed the intended target was a market close by in one of the busiest sections of the city.

Police said two children on their way to school were among the victims.

They said it was almost certain the bombers were aged about 20, were militants fighting for an independent Sikh homeland in Punjab, a rich agricultural state.

A pistol and ammunition was found on each body.

On Monday, a bomb exploded in one of New Delhi's busiest markets, killing one person. Police said Sikh militants were the prime suspects.

Monday was one of the bloodiest days for some months in the separatist campaign which started nearly 10 years ago. Nearly 30 people were killed, 14 of them in one attack.

Police said they were at a loss to explain the surge of violence, although the daily death toll in Punjab has increased since the new government of Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh took office in December.

Bringing peace to Punjab is a major item on Singh's agenda and police believe hardline militants, who will accept nothing less than independence, have intensified their campaign to stifle any compromise political deal.

Chandigarh, an elegant and spacious city designed by French architect Le Corbusier, has been largely free of separatist violence.

Shevardnadze: S. African struggle at decisive stage

LUSAKA (R) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said Tuesday the struggle against apartheid in South Africa had reached a decisive stage and pledged continued support for the African National Congress (ANC).

Shevardnadze said after one and a half hours of talks with ANC leaders at the Soviet embassy in Zambia he also backed the rebel group's scheduled talks with Pretoria next month.

"This has been a meeting of old and real friends, a meeting of people who have always fought together in the struggle against apartheid," Shevardnadze told reporters.

"We are of the view that now the struggle is entering a decisive stage... this phase is very crucial," he said.

The ANC, banned in South Africa until February, has made it clear it retains the option of armed struggle against the white minority government. Over the years it has received massive military support from the Soviet Union.

Asked if the meeting had dis-

cussed the armed struggle and whether Moscow would continue military support for the ANC, national executive committee member Stanley Mabeza said: "The armed struggle was not discussed at this meeting at all and there are no changes in Soviet support."

ANC Secretary-General Alfred Nzo described the meeting as successful.

"We were assured of support by the Soviet Union, longstanding allies of our people in the struggle against apartheid, particularly at this new decisive stage," Nzo said.

In Cape Town, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd called for European Community (EC) concessions to encourage change in South Africa after meeting President F.W. de Klerk for talks about apartheid reform.

The meeting ran counter to the appeals of ANC leader Nelson Mandela since his release from prison on Feb. 11 for the total isolation of South Africa's white-ruled government.

Study on oceans finds danger to swimmers

LONDON (R) — Holidaymakers bathing on sewage-polluted coasts or eating seafood caught there could risk skin infections, stomach ailments, respiratory problems or even hepatitis, marine scientists said Monday.

A report issued by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) said children under five were at particular risk, as well as tourists who lacked natural immunity to local disease.

"Earlier views that there is no demonstrable causal link between human disease and bathing in contaminated sea water can no longer be supported," the report said.

"(Sewage) contamination of sea water is responsible for widespread outbreaks of gastro-intestinal diseases at ill-protected and crowded beaches and is a suspected cause of respiratory, ear and skin infections among bathers."

The 104-page report, "The State of the Marine Environment," cited outbreaks of gastrointestinal diseases in Europe and North and South America. But tropical and sub-tropical waters of south and East Asia and the Pacific suffered the worst.

The report also found that the same urban sewage threatening bathers could contaminate seafood, causing acute stomach ailments.

"Infectious hepatitis is the most important viral infection transmitted by seafood, and numerous outbreaks of hepatitis demonstrate that (clams, mussels and oysters) grown in sewage-contaminated water are very effective carriers of the virus."

Hepatitis is an acute inflammation of the liver which can be fatal.

The report was prepared by the Group of Experts of the Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution (GESMAP) and is the first international survey of the world's oceans since a similar survey published eight years ago.

The 20 scientists, led by Professor Alastair McIntyre of the University of Aberdeen in Scotland, said open seas were still relatively clean, but coasts were affected almost everywhere.

Angola more flexible on peace, U.S. says

WINDHOEK (Agencies) — President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos has adopted a more flexible stand on moves to end Angola's civil war, United States officials said Tuesday.

In hour-long talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, the highest-level contact between the two countries so far, Dos Santos made clear he agreed that a ceasefire was crucial to peace, a senior U.S. official said.

"President Dos Santos indicated he agrees a ceasefire is the necessary first step to a political solution and that his government is prepared to consider entering into a negotiation," the official told reporters.

"I noticed new flexibility on the part of President Dos San-

tos... on the general issue of peace," he said.

Baker and Dos Santos are in Windhoek to take part in Namibia's independence celebrations. Later this week, Baker will meet right-wing rebel leader Jonas Savimbi and Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko in Zaire.

Mobutu is mediating in the 15-year civil war, one of Africa's bloodiest conflicts.

The official said Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Herman Cohen would meet Angolan Chief of Staff Franca Ndalu in the next two days to continue the discussions begun with Dos Santos.

"The secretary said that in the context of a ceasefire and the

beginning of a good faith negotiation, the United States is prepared to improve its relationship with the government of Angola," the official said.

Meanwhile, Angolan military officials claimed Tuesday U.S.-backed UNITA rebels killed one Cuban soldier and wounded three others in an attack in central Angola, that could again threaten the withdrawal of an estimated 18,000 Cuban soldiers still in the African nation.

A statement signed by Angolan Defence Minister Pedro Maria Tonha and carried by the Angolan News Agency (ANGOP) said the attack Saturday 60 kilometres from the central city of Huambo could provoke "grave consequences" for the Cuban pullout.

Mrs. Marcos offers to hand over part of fortune in letter to Bush

MANILA (Agencies) — Former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos, set to go on trial for fraud in New York, has offered in a letter to U.S. President George Bush to hand over part of her late husband's fortune.

She said in the letter released by the Philippine government Tuesday that the money and property should be entrusted to a neutral committee that would distribute it to the poor of the Philippines.

Mrs. Marcos said that in return, the body of former President Ferdinand Marcos should be allowed to be taken back to the Philippines for burial.

Marcos was temporarily interred in Hawaii, where he died in exile last September, after President Corason Aquino refused to allow the late dictator back to the

country on security grounds.

Mrs. Marcos did not say in the letter how much money she was offering to turn over to the committee.

The Philippines accuses the Marcoses of looting billions of dollars from the country during the 20-year rule that ended when a popular revolt in 1986 swept Aquino to power.

Mrs. Marcos, is to go on trial in New York charged with fraud and conspiracy over the alleged theft of more than \$100 million from the national treasury to buy Manhattan real estate.

Saudi arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi is accused of aiding the couple by pretending to be the owner of the disputed properties.

A copy of Mrs. Marcos's letter, dated March 5, was sent to the

Philippine ambassador in Washington but there was no immediate indication of any reaction from Bush.

The Aquino government said it was too late to make a deal.

"It may not have dawned on her yet, but the days for plea bargaining in whatever form are just simply over. She is going to jail," said Philippine Press Secretary Tomas Gomez. "It is a balloon that they have been trying to float for some time," he added.

Mrs. Marcos said after her husband died that in his will he had turned over his fortune to the Philippine people.

She said in the letter to Bush that a five-member committee of neutral people who were neither American nor Filipino should supervise the distribution.

Foreign films invade Academy Awards

By Hilal Italie
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Sir David Lean can only laugh at how calmly Hollywood is taking this year's "foreign invasion" of the Academy Awards.

My Left Foot from Ireland, five nominations including Best Picture; Camille Claudel from France, two nominations including best foreign film; Henry V from England, three nominations including best director.

Yet, it's business as usual at Oscars. There are, of course, the usual arguments over who made it and who didn't, but nothing like the press conference called by Samuel Goldwyn in 1946, when Lean's Brief Encounter and Laurence Olivier's Henry V were among several foreign films enjoying critical and commercial success.

"Hollywood is facing a challenge," said Goldwyn, producer of such films as Wuthering Heights and the Little Foxes. "Today it is by the British, tomorrow it may be the French or the Italians or the Russians. To maintain its place, Hollywood must set aside the old formulas. It must find honest stories, stories with something important to say, stories that reflect these distur-

bing times in which we live." Lean was amazed by Goldwyn's warning because he was sure Brief Encounter would flop. After all, the film had closed down after three days in one Italian city because, the British filmmaker had heard, leading man Trevor Howard was too ugly.

Brief Encounter received three nominations (but won no Oscars) and Lean eventually felt right at home at the Academy Awards, totalling 56 nominations and 27 awards for such films as Great Expectations, A Passage to India, The Bridge on the River Kwai and Lawrence of Arabia.

Since 1932, when Charles Laughton won best actor for the title role in a British production of the Private Life of Henry VIII, Oscar has had an ambivalent relationship with foreign movies.

Hollywood preferred American products to win, but constantly recognised worthy foreign efforts.

Foreign films, especially British, have won various prizes from Cinematography (Black Narcissus) to best picture (Hamlet), from screenwriting (The Search) to costume design (La Dolce Vita).

In 1956, foreign language film became a separate category. Italy's La Strada won that year. But

that didn't stop the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences from nominating foreign films and filmmakers in other categories.

In 1966, the French film A Man and a Woman won a screenplay Oscar and was also named best foreign film. In 1973, Sven Nykvist won the cinematography award for Sweden's Cries and Whispers.

The British have dominated the Oscars on several occasions, including Lawrence of Arabia in 1962, Tom Jones in 1963, Chariots of Fire in 1981 and A Room With a View in 1986.

Lean has made just two films in the past 20 years: Ryan's Daughter and A Passage to India. There's too much talk about money, and ever since Easy Rider in 1969, producers have been looking for hit films that cost little to make.

The director even longs for the return of bosses such as Goldwyn, trades and all.

"Hollywood was something special," Lean said. "Those chaps like Goldwyn, they were uneducated, but all of them, however tough, whatever they were, they just loved movies and sought quality. Now, it's, 'how much?'"

Lean spoke of a recent dinner with Billy Wilder, another Oscar-winning director who has strug-

gled to find work. They talked about the problems of being part of Hollywood history in a business that's always looking ahead.

"When you get over 80 the pressure are worse than they ever were," said Lean, who turned 81 on March 25, the day before the Academy Awards presentation.

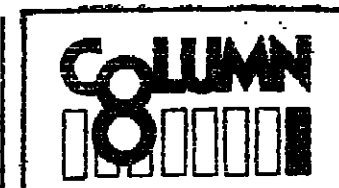
"Billy's bright as a button, really entertaining and really quick. You would think by the way he's treated, he's just beginning. Anybody who makes The Apartment and Some Like It Hot should be up in the highest position."

Fortunately, Lean said, he likes the young directors who greeted him so warmly on his recent trip. He is especially enthusiastic about Oliver Stone and predicts that Stone and other directors will eventually take control of Hollywood from the agents and lawyers.

Stone recently won the Directors Guild Award for his Born On the Fourth of July, which has received eight Oscar nominations including best picture.

"The filmmakers in Hollywood I think are very special. They're really keen and they're all full of enthusiasm that doesn't seem to be at all envious of others," Lean said.

"They just give it to you on a plate. It's very nice for an old bird to get that."



Intruder penetrates U.S. computer network

PITTSBURGH (R) — An intruder has managed to electronically penetrate an international computer network and enter the computer systems of several of the network's members in the United States, government officials have said. The network, Internet, is a worldwide collection of systems linking more than 150,000 computers used by scientists and the military around the world. In the United States, its members include major universities, government centres and large corporations. In recent weeks, someone has made several attempts to get into Internet, and has managed to penetrate members' computers several times, said Terry McGillen, a spokesman for the Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT), a government agency that tracks computer crime. Its activities are coordinated at Carnegie-Mellon University here.

"As of this morning, we know of several systems that have been broken into within the last week, and several dozen more attempts that were made on March 15 and 16," he said Monday. However, McGillen emphasised that the most recent efforts do not involve a computer virus, which actively destroys computer files.

Couple reunited after 40 years

TOKYO (AP) — A 62-year-old South Korean woman was reunited with her husband who defected to Communist North Korea 40 years ago during the Korean war, press reports said Sunday. The emotional reunion occurred Saturday night when the woman hugged her 63-year-old husband, Sohn Young-Chong, after handing over a bunch of flowers from his homeland, according to the mass-circulation Yonhwa Shinbun newspaper. The Yonhwa said Sohn left his home as a college student in Seoul and volunteered for the North Korean Army in 1950, when the North invaded the South, triggering a three-year war. He now has another wife and six children in North Korea, according to Yonhwa, the South Korean News Agency. He met his first wife during an officially-guided tour as a North Korean historian.

Chinese probe mysteries of 1st emperor's tomb

PEKING (R) — The giant tomb of China's first emperor, its mysteries buried for over 2,000 years, is being revealed by experts using geophysical techniques. The New China News Agency (NCNA) said Sunday that archaeologists had revealed the layout of the tomb of Emperor Qinshi, celebrated for its accompanying army of thousands of terracotta warriors and horses, outside the central Chinese city of Xian. Professor Yuan Zhongyi leading the project says the tomb and its surrounding palace covers 30,000 square metres. The palace was walled and appears to be trapezoidal — kite-shaped — with the main entrance facing to the watchtower. Using seismic prospecting techniques, rather than excavating tonnes of earth, the team has also discovered storehouses on either side of the tomb as well as corridors and halls. The 7,000 life-size warriors were discovered in 1974 after farmers chanced upon the tomb. Ancient historical records report that the tomb of Qinshi, who died in 210 BC after becoming the first emperor of a unified China, was soon looted.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	09	43	11 52 Clear
ATHENS	11	52	25 77 Clear
BAIRN	15	59	20 59 Cloudy
BANGKOK	25	77	33 91 Clear
Buenos Aires	14	57	24 75 Clear
Cairo	08	48	23 73 Clear
CHICAGO	-02	23	-31 30 Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	05	41	10 51 Cloudy
FRANKFURT	05	46	20 65 Cloudy
GENOVA	02	36	16 61 Clear
HONG KONG	17	68	23 73 Clear
ISTANBUL	07	45	15 59 Cloudy
LONG BEACH	14	58	26 82 Clear
MADRID	09	46	24 75 Clear
MEXICO	23	73	36 97 Cloudy
MONTREAL	-03	21	-02 36 Cloudy
MOSCOW	05	41	13 5